

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of November 4, 2005. Claims 6, 11, 17, 19, and 23 are amended as shown. Claims 1, 7, 13, 18, and 21 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added. With this amendment, claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-17, 19-20, and 22-24 are pending in the application.

I. Priority

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the present Application Data Sheet does not acknowledge the filing of any foreign application. The applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner on this issue.

For example, the Application Data Sheet filed on November 26, 2003 contains the requisite foreign priority information regarding European Patent Application Serial No. 02425729.7, which was filed on November 28, 2002. Moreover, a certified copy of the priority document was filed on November 26, 2003, and the claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document was acknowledged in the Filing Receipt of February 26, 2004 and in the Office Action of February 23, 2005.

Accordingly, it is believed that the present applicants' claim to foreign priority has been perfected. The Examiner is kindly requested to provide acknowledgement in the next communication that the requirements for claiming foreign priority have been met.

II. Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for not showing the resistive element claimed in claim 6 and elsewhere. A revised/replacement sheet showing a resistive element in Figure 1 is provided herewith. The specification is also amended as shown in view of the changes to Figure 1.

III. Discussion of the applicants' disclosed embodiments in view of the cited reference

A disclosed embodiment will now be discussed in comparison to the applied references. Of course, the discussion of the disclosed embodiment, and the discussion of the differences between the disclosed embodiment and subject matter described in the applied references, do not define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims. Instead, such discussed differences are intended to merely help the Examiner appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

According to one embodiment disclosed by the present applicants in Figure 1, a load element 2 and an active element 3 are coupled to each other to define a circuit node X of a power amplifier 1. An example of the load element 2 is a transistor M1, and an example of the active element 3 is a transistor M2.

As described on page 4, lines 18-20 and elsewhere in the present application, stabilization of the circuit node X is provided, such as by coupling a resistive element between the drain and source terminals of the transistor M2. Thus, a first terminal of the resistive element (shown as R in amended Figure 1) is coupled to the circuit node X, while a second terminal of the resistive element is coupled to a voltage reference, such as ground GND. Stabilization is provided by the resistive element R, for example, to substantially guarantee that the drain of the transistor M2 does not reach its breakdown value.

Contrary to the position taken by the Examiner on page 3 of the present Office Action, the present applicants believe that Knapp does not disclose, teach, or suggest a resistor to stabilize a node, and a resistor coupled to the transistors in the manner disclosed by the present applicants.

Specifically, the Examiner has cited the resistor R2 in Figure 2 of Knapp. However, it is submitted that the resistor R2 of Knapp is a passive element provided for a polarization purpose, rather than to provide stability for his node e_0 .

Moreover, the resistor R2 of Knapp is not coupled between the drain and source terminals of the transistor 1 (e.g., the resistor R2 does not have a first terminal coupled to the

node e_0 and a second terminal coupled to the voltage V_{ss}). Clearly, the resistor $R2$ of Knapp in Figures 2-3 has a first terminal coupled to the gate G of the transistor 2 and a second terminal coupled to the voltage V_{ss} at the source S of the transistor 1—thus, the resistor $R2$ of Knapp cannot be interpreted as being coupled between the drain D and the source S terminals of the transistor 1.

Knapp shows a number of transistors having pair of terminals and a control terminal that is different from the pair of terminals. However, the various other resistors shown in Knapp do not disclose, teach, or suggest a resistive element coupled between such pair of terminals and/or a resistive element providing stability.

IV. Discussion of the claims

Independent claim 6 recites “a resistive element inserted between a circuit node connecting said active element to said load element and said second voltage reference.” As explained above, this configuration is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Knapp. Knapp’s resistor $R2$ in Figures 2-3 is not inserted between the circuit node e_0 (which connects his transistors 1 and 2) and the voltage V_{ss} .

Accordingly, claim 6 is allowable over Knapp. Claim 6 is amended as shown to place the claim in better format.

Independent claim 11 previously recited “a resistive element coupled between the third terminal of the load element and the second voltage reference.” It is believed that this recitation distinguishes over Knapp because the resistor $R2$ of Knapp is coupled between the gate terminal G of the transistor 2 (*e.g.*, a second terminal coupled to receive a first control voltage) and the voltage V_{ss} , and therefore, Knapp’s resistor $R2$ cannot be interpreted as being coupled as recited between the third terminal (source terminal S) and the voltage V_{ss} .

However, to facilitate prosecution, claim 11 is nevertheless amended to recite that the resistive element is coupled between the --first and third terminals of the active element--. Since the resistor $R2$ of Knapp is clearly not coupled between the drain D and source S terminals of the transistor 1, amended claim 11 is now further allowable over Knapp.

Independent claim 17, as with independent claim 11 discussed above, is believed to have had recitations pertaining to the configuration of the resistive element that distinguished over Knapp. However, in an effort to further facilitate prosecution, claim 17 is nevertheless amended as shown to recite that the resistive element is coupled between the --first and third terminals of the active element in a manner that a first terminal of the resistive element is coupled to the node and a second terminal of the resistive element is coupled to the second voltage reference.--

Knapp does not disclose, teach, or suggest this configuration. For example, the resistor R2 of Knapp does not have a first terminal coupled to the node e_0 . Accordingly, claim 17 is further allowable over Knapp.

Independent claim 19 is amended to recite that the resistive element has a first terminal coupled to the circuit node (between the transistor load element and the active element) and a second terminal coupled to a voltage reference. Because this feature is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Knapp, claim 19 is allowable.

Independent claim 23 is amended to recite that the means for stabilizing is --coupled between a pair of terminals of the active element that are different from the control terminal of the active element--. As explained above, this feature is not found in Knapp, since his transistor R2 is not coupled between the drain D and source S terminals of the transistor 1 that are different from its gate terminal G. Furthermore, there is nothing disclosed, taught, or suggested in Knapp that the resistor R2 forms a stabilization function. Accordingly, claim 23 is allowable.

IV. Conclusion

Overall, none of the references singly or in any motivated combination disclose, teach, or suggest what is recited in the independent claims. Thus, given the above amendments and accompanying remarks, the independent claims are now in condition for allowance. The dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly on these independent claims are likewise allowable based on at least the same reasons and based on the recitations contained in each dependent claim.

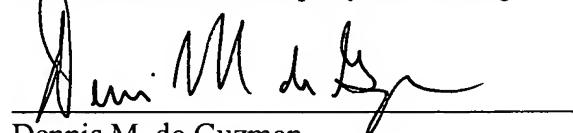
If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is requested to specifically point out where such teaching may be found. Further, if there are any informalities or questions that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 622-4900.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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DMD:wt

Enclosures:

Postcard
1 Sheet of Replacement Drawings

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